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Restoration of the tank in Pulipattu

* 1059 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to restore the tank in Pulipattu village in Gingee taluk, South Arcot district?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The irrigation source has been investigated by the Food Production Engineering staff and the Executive Engineer (Food Production), Madras, has prepared and sent to the Superintending Engineer (Food Production) an estimate along with detailed plans for the work of restoration of the tank at the estimated cost of Rs. 40,000 for works or Rs. 51,808 including direct and indirect charges. The estimate has been returned by the Superintending Engineer to the Executive Engineer with some suggestions on the technical side for reducing the cost of the scheme. The estimate will be obtained from the Executive Engineer by the Superintending Engineer and submitted to the Commissioner of Food Production for according administrative sanction for the estimate. The work will be sanctioned under the Special Minor Irrigation Programme and taken up for execution by the Food Production Engineer staff in due course."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Question Nos. 1060 and 1061 can be taken up together."

Strike in a beedi factory in Palghat

* 1060 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a strike is going on in No. 6 Beedi Factory in Palghat, Malabar, since 16th October 1954;

(*b*) if so, the reasons for the strike;

(*c*) the conciliation measures taken by the Government in the strike; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that a hunger strike is going on before the factory since 8th December 1954 in this connexion?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir; but there was one till 12th December 1954.

" (*b*) It is reported that the strike was against the action of the management in opening a new branch and thereby reducing work in the original factory, instead of giving the workers in the original factory sufficient work.

" (*c*) The parties to the dispute were asked to be present for the conciliation by the Labour Officers on 2nd November 1954 and 2nd December 1954 but they did not appear for conciliation on either of the dates.

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" (*d*) No, Sir; but a hunger strike begun on 8th December 1954 was called off on 12th December 1954, as a result of the settlement reached between the parties."

* 1061 *Q.*—SRI R. KRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state what action the Government have taken to settle the labour dispute in No. 6 Beedi Company, Palghat, Malabar?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Labour Officer, Kozhikode, asked the parties to the dispute to be present for conciliation on 2nd November 1954 and 2nd December 1954, but both the parties did not appear for conciliation.

" It has been reported that the strike was called off on 12th December 1954 as a result of the parties coming to an agreement."

Magistrate's Court for Tranquebar

* 1062 *Q.*—SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to open a Magistrate's Court at Tranquebar, Mayuram taluk, Tanjore district?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir."

Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited, Cannanore

* 1063 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any memorandum, dated 8th December 1954, from the retrenched employees of the Cannanore Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited, North Malabar, regarding the delay on the part of the Government in approving the resolution of the general body of the above society, dated 19th September 1954, allowing certain concessions to retrenched employees; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The matter is under consideration."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Now, Sir, some of the societies whose financial position is sound have passed resolutions at their general body meetings sanctioning certain amenities to workers employed by them. This has to be approved by the Government. The Government have not passed orders for a long time. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government will expedite a decision on this matter and also pass an order in general terms so that it may apply to all societies who have passed such